

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
REQUEST FOR FILING APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR 53(b)
WITHOUT FILING FEE OR EXECUTED INVENTOR'S DECLARATION



U.S. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Atty. Dkt. 871-82

Date: June 1, 2000

This is a request for filing a new PATENT APPLICATION under Rule 53(b) entitled:

REMOTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR AT LEAST ONE AUDIOVISUAL INFORMATION REPRODUCTION DEVICE
without a filing fee and/or without an executed inventor's oath/declaration.

This application is made by the below identified inventor(s). Attached hereto are the following papers:

- ☒ An abstract together with
51 pages of specification and claims including
21 numbered claims and also attached is/are
15 sheets of accompanying drawings.

☒ This application is based on the following prior foreign application(s):

Application No. Country
99 09225 France

Filing Date
16 July 1999

respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application, and priority is hereby claimed therefrom.

☐ This application is based on the following prior provisional application(s):

Application No. Filing Date

respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application, and priority is hereby claimed therefrom.

☐ Certified copy/ies of foreign applications attached.

This application is a ☐ continuation/☐ division/☐ continuation-in-part of application Serial No. , filed

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line: --This application is a ☐ continuation/☐ division/☐ continuation-in-part of application Serial No. , filed , the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.--

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line: --This is a continuation of PCT application No. , filed , the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.--

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line: --This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. , filed , the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.--

☒ Preliminary amendment to claims (attached hereto), to be entered before calculation of the fee.

☒ Also attached. IDS PTO 1449 W/refs and French Search Report

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In re Patent Application of

NATHAN et al

Atty. Ref.: 871-82

Serial No. To Be Assigned

Group:

Filed: June 1, 2000

Examiner:

For: REMOTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR AT
LEAST ONE AUDIOVISUAL
INFORMATION REPRODUCTION DEVICE

* * * * *

June 1, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for
examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, line 3, delete, "or 2".

Claim 4, line 3, change, "one of claims 1 to 3" to --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 3, change, "one of claims 1 to 4" to --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 3, delete, "or 6".

Claim 8, line 3, delete, "or 6".

Claim 15, line 3, change, "one of claims 5 to 7" to --claim 5--.

Claim 16, line 3, change, "one of claims 1 to 8" to -claim 1--.

Claim 19, line 3, change, "one of claims 1 to 10" to -claim 1--.

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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Our Ref.: 871-82

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

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Invention: REMOTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR AT LEAST ONE AUDIOVISUAL
INFORMATION REPRODUCTION DEVICE

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SPECIFICATION

Remote management system for at least one audiovisual
information reproduction device

Field of the invention

This invention relates to a system for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device.

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Background of the invention

International patent WO 96/12255 describes a device for reproduction of audiovisual information commonly called jukebox. This jukebox is organized around a system unit that manages audiovisual reproduction means and means for memorizing at least one audiovisual information corresponding to the soundtrack of a song. The system unit also manages telecommunication means such as a modem, particularly to enable downloading of audiovisual information from a host server. Management of orders for new songs and for changing settings requires either that an operator should visit the site on which the jukebox is installed, or that the operator should use a computer with a link to the host server.

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Furthermore, management operations that can be performed through the link with the host server are limited to ordering new musical selections.

Objects and summary of the invention

Therefore, the purpose of this invention is to overcome the disadvantages of prior art by proposing a system for remote management of intelligent audiovisual information reproduction systems installed locally in order to limit travel necessary by the operator to carry out management and configuration operations.

This purpose is achieved by the fact that the system for remote management of an audiovisual information reproduction device comprises a host server connected to telecommunication means of each audiovisual information reproduction device, the host server comprising storage means capable of storing a database containing management information for each audiovisual information reproduction device, the set of available musical selections, the set of possible configurations for each audiovisual information reproduction device, the system being characterized in that the host server also comprises an "Internet" site manager communicating with the database, the "Internet" site being accessible by an operator responsible for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device, and comprising a number of screens, at least a first screen comprising a popup menu displaying the list of audiovisual information reproduction systems installed locally for which usage information is available, the choice of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device being validated causing the display of a first series of screens that the operator can use to modify the operating parameters of each selected audiovisual information reproduction system and/or a second series of screens that the operator can use to order at least one song for downloading on each reproduction device in a chosen list of devices or to delete at least one song, and/or a third series of

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screens displaying information about the use of the audiovisual information reproduction device.

According to another special feature, the "Internet" site manager collects information about the operation of
5 each audiovisual information reproduction device displayed on each screen, and the list of available songs, in the database.

According to another special feature, modifications made by the operator in the first and/or second series of
10 screens are stored in a file and are translated into the database language to update the data modified in these series of screens and update each audiovisual information reproduction device concerned by the modifications as soon as a communication is set up between the host server
15 and each audiovisual information reproduction device.

According to another special feature, the "Internet" site manager comprises means of authentication of the operator designed to limit the operator's access to the audiovisual information reproduction devices that he
20 manages.

According to another feature, the screens in the first and second series of screens comprise a toolbar with several selection buttons that display either a screen in the first or second series of screens, or
25 validate operations performed on the screen being displayed.

According to another special feature, a first selection button in the toolbar initiates the display of a third screen comprising a first window displaying
30 information about the location of the audiovisual information reproduction device chosen by the operator, and an input area to update the information displayed in the first window, if required.

According to another feature, a second toolbar
35 selection button triggers the display of a fourth screen in the second series of screens comprising several input

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areas that will be used to define selection criteria for selecting songs, the list of songs corresponding to the selection criterion being initially collected in the database by the site manager sending a request containing
5 the criteria chosen by the operator in the input fields, and secondly displayed in a popup window in the fourth screen.

According to another special feature, validating the choice of a song selected in the popup window in the
10 fourth screen triggers the display of a fifth screen comprising several fields containing elements identifying the selected song, a popup window displaying the list of audiovisual information reproduction devices managed by the operator, a first selection screen validating the
15 purchase of the selected song for the audiovisual information reproduction devices selected by the operator in the popup window, by sending a request to the site manager, and a second selection area displaying the fourth screen again.

20 According to another feature, a third selection button on the toolbar triggers the display of a sixth screen comprising a number of fields containing information about the use of the audiovisual information reproduction device chosen by the operator, a first popup
25 window containing the list of songs to be downloaded to the audiovisual information reproduction device chosen by the operator, a second popup window containing the list of songs to be deleted from this audiovisual information reproduction device, a first selection area triggering
30 cancellation of downloading of one or several songs previously selected by the operator in the first popup window, and a second selection area triggering cancellation of the deletion of one or several songs previously selected by the operator in the second popup
35 window.

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or deactivate a particular function of the audiovisual information reproduction device.

According to another feature, an eighth button in the toolbar triggers the display of a screen that will be
5 used to define a default basic configuration of all or some of the audiovisual information reproduction devices managed by the operator.

According to another feature, the second series of screens includes a screen containing a first menu in
10 which the song category required by the operator is selected, a second menu in which the style of the song required by the operator is selected, and a selection area in which the operator validates his choice to trigger the display of a second screen comprising a first
15 window displaying the list of songs in the first category and style chosen by the operator, and a second window displaying the list of songs selected by the operator in the list in the first window and a selection area in which the operator validates his choice.

According to another feature, the list of displayed songs is collected in the database among the most
20 frequently played songs on all the operator's jukeboxes or among the songs most frequently played on all jukeboxes managed by the server or among the songs most
25 frequently played on all jukeboxes installed in all branches belonging to the same determined category.

According to another feature, the second window also comprises the list of songs already memorized on the audiovisual information reproduction device.

According to another feature, the third series of screens comprises at least one screen comprising a window
30 displaying the list of songs played by the audiovisual information reproduction device, and the date on which each song was played, and/or at least one screen
35 comprising a window indicating the date(s) on which the audiovisual information reproduction device was switched

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off and/or on, and a window indicating the date(s) on which a communication between the audiovisual information reproduction device and the host server was interrupted.

According to another feature, the system comprises a
5 magnetic or optical recording system such that the songs selected by the operator are recorded on a portable magnetic or optical medium, or a solid state electronic memory, preferably semi-conductor based.

According to another feature, songs are encrypted
10 and recorded on a portable magnetic or optical medium in a compressed format, the songs only being decompressed and decrypted when the song is played on an audiovisual information reproduction device.

15 Brief description of drawings

Other features and advantages of this invention will become more obvious after reading the following description with reference to the attached drawings in which:

- 20
- figure 1 shows a block diagram of the system according to the invention,
 - figures 2A to 2J show examples of screens on the "Internet" site,
 - figure 3 shows an example of an audiovisual reproduction device,
- 25
- figure 4 shows an example logic diagram showing the relations between library modules and object modules in the operating system of the audiovisual reproduction device,
- 30
- figure 5 shows a simplified flow chart of the structure of a database used by the system according to the invention,
 - figures 6A to 6F show a detailed flow chart of the structure of a database used by the system
- 35
- according to the invention.

Description of the preferred embodiments

Before describing details of the remote management system for an audiovisual reproduction device according to the invention, it is worth mentioning the composition of an audiovisual reproduction device and its operating mode.

Figure 3 shows an example of an audiovisual information reproduction device. This type of device is described in particular in international patent application WO 96/12255 submitted by the applicant. Preferably, but in no way restrictively, this audiovisual information reproduction device uses the hardware components mentioned and referenced below.

The system unit 1 with a microprocessor is a high performance PC compatible system, the choice at the time of implementation was made for an Intel Pentium type system with at least the following memory means and characteristics:

- compatibility with the Vesa local bus,
- processor cache memory: 256 kbytes,
- RAM memory: 32 Mbytes,
- high performance serial and parallel ports,
- microprocessor controlled SVGA type graphic adapter,
- SCSI/2 type bus controller,
- self-powered static RAM memory.

Any other system unit with equivalent or better performances could be used in the invention.

This system unit controls and manages a sound control circuit 5, a telecommunications control circuit 4, an input control circuit 3, a mass memory control circuit 2, and a display means control circuit 6. The display means are composed primarily of a SVGA type flat screen, high resolution, low radiation video monitor with no interlacing. This is the monitor that will be used for image reproduction (for example album covers for

musical selections), and to display graphics and video clips.

Storage modules 21 using high speed, high capacity SCSI type hard disks form part of the memory means and
5 are associated with the memory means already existing in the microprocessor device. These modules are used for the storage of audiovisual information.

A 28.8 kbps high speed telecommunications modem adapter 41 is included to create the link with an
10 audiovisual information distribution network controlled by a host server.

For the reproduction of audio information in musical selections, the system comprises loudspeakers 54 into which the signal from an amplifier tuner 53 connected to
15 a music synthesizer type electronic circuit 5 is input, designed to accept a large number of input sources while providing a CD (compact disk) type quality, for example such as the microprocessor multimedia audio adapter such as a sound card.

20 The audiovisual reproduction device is provided with an input controller circuit 3 that manages a touch screen 33 including a glass coating panel using the "advanced surface wave technology", and an AT type bus controller. This touch screen can be used to select various selection
25 information used by customers, and ordering and management control information used by the system manager or owner, on the video monitor display 62 or on a television screen 61. It is also used with an external keyboard 34 that can be connected to the system that is
30 provided with a keyboard connector for this purpose, controlled by a key lock 32 through the interface circuit 3, for maintenance purposes.

A fee payment device 35 is also connected to the input interface circuit 3. Any other device can be used
35 that enables reception of any payment method by coins,

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The system is installed in a steel frame or rack.

The operating software in the device was generated around a library of tools and services specifically designed for the audiovisual field in a multimedia universe. This library advantageously includes a high performance multi-task operating system that efficiently enables simultaneous execution of multiple code fragments. This operating software enables concurrent and orderly execution, thus avoiding any conflict between operations carried out on display means, audio reproduction means and management of telecommunication links through the distribution network. Furthermore, this software is extremely flexible.

The architecture of the operating system comprises a distribution of the different tasks into software modules connected to each other by dynamic links or composed of 35 executable subprograms presenting main dependency links

with other parts of the operating system. Each of the modules is composed of object files or dynamic link libraries organized according to a number of dependency levels described in the attributes. The attributes of an object or a library indicate the version number and dependencies of the object file or the library with respect to other object files as described below for the PARSE module. Each attribute indicates the level assigned to the module. Thus, the JUK.EXE 70 module is a higher level than the JUKECORE 71, TLS 72, CRDE 73, GFX 74, WDLL 75, JEEP 9 and TELECOM 10 modules, but the TELECOM 10 module depends on the JEEP module 9 (see link 910 and it is therefore at a lower level than JEEP 9.

Similarly, the level of JEEP 9 (see link 759) is lower than the level of the WDLL module 75 since it is dependent on it and TLS (link 725) is a higher level than WDLL 75. On the other hand, TLS and GFX may be at the same level. The main task comprises a module (JUKECORE) designed to initialize or load the module 73, the program core "CRDE.DLL", initialize or load the graphic management module (GFX) 74, initialize or load the library loading module (WDLL.DLL) 75, load the telecommunication tasks Telecom module (DLL) 10, load the TLS.DLL module 72 that contains all usages necessary for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), for telecom, time, decryption, etc., initialize or load the library of JEEP (Juke Execution Exchange Protocol) programs performing integrity server and loading request tasks and the dialog with the server, and starting the program (80, SILOAD.DLL) as the main task. The main jukebox application task comprises a module (SILOAD.DLL) containing the loader program library designed to verify the required dynamic link library versions in (WDLL), to load them or call the Telecom tasks module to perform the file transfer. The WDLL.DLL module comprises the list of the minimum versions

necessary for operation in a (DLL.DEFAULT) file, and the list of all functions represented either by libraries (LIBRARY) (DLL, DJL), or by object files (DJO). Each object or library contains the list of all functions that the library or the object needs, and version numbers and dependencies. The WDLL module manages all new modules, controls inter-dependencies and checks that downloaded modules do not have any other dependencies and have been loaded with the necessary versions. The application part 8 specific to an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) comprises a number of modules loaded and run by SILOAD and defining the following display windows:

- a mouse signal or touch screen signal processing module 81,
- a module 82 for the processing of messages exchanged between objects and various other modules,
- a disk files management module FIL.DJL 83,
- a disk files read-write module FILIO.DJL 84,
- a module JSTRUCT.DJL 85 for supervision of all events generated by equipment such as the touch screen, the sound card, the coin collection equipment processing interface.

SILOAD manages loading of modules specific to the terminal task, namely all previously enumerated DJL modules and jukebox library modules 87 built up using WOBJECT 870 that manages the object such as the mixer, purchases; the WCURSOR module 871 that manages cursor movements; the DBMAPI module 872 that manages the database; the WFONTS module 873 that manages all font types; the PARSER module 874 (syntax analysis program) that analyzes and generates screens starting from the script and verifies the grammar using the "GRAMMAR.DJL" module 876 and the "LEXY.DJL" module 875 that is the lexical word functions assignment module inside the

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- char*parser_version_info=DLL_INFO DJL;"
                                DLL-NAME PARSE.DJL;"
5                                "VERSION 1;"
                                "CREATOR KENDALF;"
                                "REQUIRES lexyy.djl;4;"
                                "REQUIRES grammar-.djl;5";

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Thus, the PARSER module needs LEXY version 4 and GRAMMAR version 5 modules otherwise it cannot be executed by the system. The double arrows between the different modules in figure 4 show the order of loading the different files. Thus, as seen above, the first step is to load JUKE.EXE followed by JUKECORE.DLL, so that GFX.DLL, TLS.DLL, WDLL.DLL, JEEP.DLL, TELECOM.DLL, CRDE.DLL and SILOAD.DLL can be loaded from JUKECORE.DLL.

The single arrows show dependencies between files. Thus, the arrow 91 indicates that DJL files, and DBMAPI in particular, are dependent on CRDE.DLL. The arrow 93 shows that DJO files are dependent on the WOBJECT.DJL module. The WOBJECT.DJL module itself is dependent on the FILIO.DJL module. The arrow 92a indicates that DBMAPI.DJL is dependent on JSTRUCT.DJL and arrow 92b indicates that DBMAPI.DJL is dependent on WMESSAGE.DJL. The arrow 98 indicates that JSTRUCT.DJL is dependent on the WMESSAGE.DJL file. WMESSAGE is dependent on the MOUSE.DJL file and FILIO.DJL is dependent on the FIL.DJL file. The XCP.DJL file is dependent on JSTRUCT.DJL as shown by arrow 856 and on WMESSAGE.DJL as shown by arrow 826. The JHANDLER file is dependent on WMESSAGE.DJL as shown by arrow 97 and on JSTRUCT.DJL as shown by arrow 96. SILOOP.DLL file is dependent on JSTRUCT.DJL as shown

by arrow 95, and on WMESSAGE.DJL as shown by arrow 94. TELECOM.DLL file is dependent on JEEP.DLL as shown by arrow 910, and JEEP.DLL is dependent on WDLL.DLL as shown by arrow 959. File WDLL.DLL is dependent on TLS.DLL as shown by arrow 725. Similarly, arrow 89c shows that GRAMMAR.DJL is dependent on LEXY.DLL, and arrow 99b shows that LEXY.DJL is dependent on PARSER.DJLL. Thus, as was seen previously, PARSER needs LEXY and GRAMMAR to execute and version 1 of PARSER uses version 4 of LEXY.DJL and version 5 of GRAMMAR.DJL. Similarly, WOBJECT.DJL is dependent on PARSER.DJL as shown by arrow 99a. Thus, all modules and all .DJO, .DLL and .DJL libraries contain information similar to that in the PARSER module that defines the version requirements of the different modules on which a given module is dependent. This information also gives module dependencies on other modules as shown by the arrows in figure 4.

The SILOAD library loading module also loads or runs a SILOOP.DLL module 90 that is a wait for event loop. A set of modules 88 contains the list of files that are to be included to manage the windows of a window display on the jukebox type terminal monitor.

This list of objects is composed of:

- a "WPSCREEN.DJO" objects file 883 that defines the main page on the monitor,
- a "WSCREEN" objects file 881 that is used to determine the number of screens available and thus displays several windows or screens on this main page,
- a "WIMAGE.DJO" objects file 880 that determines and defines the image that it will use in the screen,
- a "WANIM.DJO" objects file 882 that defines the animation when the image is animated,

- a "WBUTTON.DJO" objects file 885 that defines and manages buttons that are used on the main page screen such as the control buttons used in the graphic interface defined in patent application PCT WO 96/12258,
- a "WLABEL.DJO" objects file 884 that creates labels used to write on an object; and
- a "WSCROLLER.DJO" objects file 886 that defines vertically scrolling display areas.

10 A "JHANDLER" library is used to define fixed uses of screens and therefore to determine which interfaces provide the link with the different objects defined by the previous modules.

Module 86 in the "XCP" library is used to manage
15 payment tasks such as bank note reception systems or coin or smart card payment devices, and also to save basic information in the IBUTTON which is an integrated circuit for the storage of the user's secret codes.

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the system
20 according to the invention. According to prior art, each audiovisual reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) communicates with the host server 10 through its telecommunication means, and for example a modem connected to the telephone network 30. The host server
25 10 comprises communication means 121, 111 for this purpose, for example such as at least one modem connected to the telephone network. The host server 10 also comprises a database 11 containing all information about the operation of each audiovisual information
30 reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), in other words the operating parameters for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), its identification number, the list of songs stored on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), and the
35 operator responsible for management of the audiovisual reproduction device(s) (100.1 to 100.n). The database

also contains statistics about the use of each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), in other words the list of songs played and the date on which each song was played, the list and date of all incidents that occurred during the use of each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), particularly when it was switched on, communication interruptions, and the number of times that payment means refused the money input. Similarly, the database comprises the list of available songs stored in the host server memory means 10, the audiovisual information necessary for reproduction of these songs, and the configuration tools necessary to install the operating system for each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n). All the information contained in the database 11 is updated by means of communications, for example periodic communications, with each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) through the telephone network and modems for each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) and the database or the host server 10.

An example database 11 used in the management system according to the invention will now be described with reference to figures 5 and 6A to 6F. All this information in the database 11 is stored in the form of arrays. Each array contains information about a theme or structure or particular function of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, figure 1). Each item of information is identified by an argument contained in an array in the database 11. The information in one array may be linked to another array. This link is established when at least one argument is common to the two arrays.

According to the invention, the database 11 comprises at least one first set of arrays (1101, fig. 5

and 6A and 6E) representing information directly concerning the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), for example such as its operating status (JUK_STATUS, fig. 6A) or its
 5 identification number (JUK_ID, fig. 6A), or the available memory space (JUK_AVAILABLE_SPACE, FIG. 6A). Each row in an array (1101) represents information about an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) identified in this array by its
 10 identification number (JUK-ID, FIG. 6A).

This first set of arrays 1101 is related to at least one second set of arrays (1102, fig. 5 and 6B and 6D) representing information about hardware and software constituents that can be recentered on an audiovisual
 15 information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). This or these second array(s) (1102, fig. 5 and 6C and 6D) comprise in particular the name (PGD_NAME, fig. 6D) in the program definition tables (PROGRM_DEF, fig. 6D), or the name (COD_ID, fig. 6B), the version (PGM_VERSION, fig. 6B) and the installation date (PGM_RELEASE_DT, fig. 6B) of each software or hardware component, in the component table (COMPONENT, fig. 6A), the component definition table (COMPONENT_DEF, fig. 6B), the component upgrade table (COMPONENT_UPGRADE, fig. 6B), and the
 20 equipment table (FIRMWARE, fig. 6B). Each table in the second arrays (1102, fig. 6B) corresponds to a software component or a hardware component. The link between at least one table in a second set of arrays (1102, fig. 6A) and the first set of arrays (1101, fig. 5 and 6A) is made
 30 using the number of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Thus using this link, it is possible to know all software and hardware components of an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) with a given
 35 number by searching in each second set of arrays for the

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tables containing the audiovisual information reproduction device number (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

The first set of arrays (1101, fig. 5, 6A and 6C) is also related to a third set of arrays (1103, JUKE_XX, IB_XXX, fig. 6A and 6C) representing information about the configuration of an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). A first group of tables (IB_XXX) in the third set of arrays (1103, fig. 6A) contains all operating parameters of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) and a second group of tables (JUK_XXX) in the third set of arrays 1103 associates each jukebox with a given set of parameters contained in a table in the first group of parameters in the third set of arrays (1103, IB_XXX). Operating parameters include parameters controlling the volume of the amplifier defined for a jukebox in the table (JUK_MIXAGE, fig. 6A), and also parameters defined for all jukeboxes in the (IB_MIXAGE, FIG. 6A) table or parameters about the price to be paid (IB and JUK_TUNE_COST, fig. 6C) for each song selection, or telecommunication link parameters (JUK_ISP, fig. 6C) with the server (10, fig. 1), or operating parameters for a remote control if any for an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). These parameters are defined for a jukebox in the (JUK_REMOTE_CONTROL, fig. 6C) table and all remote control operating parameters for all jukeboxes are defined in the (IB_REMOTE_CONTROL, fig. 6C) table, an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) being associated each time with a table (JUK_TUNE_COST, IB_TUNE_COST, JUK_REMOTE_CONTROL, IB_REMOTE_CONTROL, fig. 6C) in the third sets of arrays 1103. Each row in a table stores operating parameters for an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) with a given number (JUK_ID, fig. 6A). The link between first and third sets of arrays 1103 may

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be made for example using the identification number of an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Thus, the server 10 can find all operating parameters of an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) with a given number by using this link, by searching in each third set of arrays 1103 for tables containing the number (JUK_ID) of the determined audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), then searching in the rows of these tables for the set of parameters corresponding to the found reference. Similarly, the server can update the information contained in the third set of arrays 1103 when a message is received from a jukebox. This is done by the server processing the received message immediately that a jukebox enters into communication with the server, in order to determine if the information contained in the database needs to be updated. If the message contains information about modifications to physical parameters, the server adds a new table or replaces the value supplied by the modifications in the row of the table concerned in the third set of arrays 1103.

The first set of arrays (1101, fig. 5 and 6A) is also related to a fourth set of arrays (1104, SONG, fig. 5 and 6A) representing information about songs stored on the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Each song is identified by a unique number (CLT_ID, fig. 6A). Each row in a table in the fourth set of arrays 1104 represents a song stored on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) identified by its number (JUK_ID, fig. 6A) at the beginning of the table. The server can update information contained in the fourth set of arrays 1104 when a message is received from a jukebox. In order to do this, as soon as a jukebox sets up a communication with the server, the server processes the received

message to determine if the message contains information specific to the songs list, and to decide if the information contained in the database needs to be updated. If the message contains information about
5 modifications to the list of songs contained in the jukebox, the server then adds a new table if the jukebox had not yet been registered, or modifies the row corresponding to the received modifications in the table corresponding to the jukebox, in other words either the
10 deletion of one or several songs, or the addition of one or several new songs in the list of songs available on the jukebox.

A fifth set of arrays (1105, CATALOGUE, fig. 6B) related to the fourth set of arrays (1104, SONG, fig. 6A) through the song identification number (CLT_ID, fig. 6A),
15 comprises a description of each song in the database. Each table in the fifth set of arrays (1105, fig. 6B) represents the description of a song in the database 11. This fifth table 1105 in particular is used to determine
20 whether or not a song is available to be downloaded on an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) at the request of an operator. In particular, a song is not available unless agreements have been made about copying and playing the song. If
25 these agreements have not been made, the song is present in the database but is not available for downloading to a jukebox. The link between the first 1101 and the fourth 1104 sets of arrays is made through the number (JUKE_ID, fig. 6A) of the audiovisual information reproduction
30 device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Thus, the server can initially determine the identification number (CTL_ID, fig. 6A) of all songs stored in an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, Fig. 1) with a given number. Then, secondly, the server can in
35 particular determine the name (CTL_SONG_NAME, fig. 6B) of any song present on the audiovisual information

reproduction device (110.1 to 100.n, Fig. 1), determined by its number (JUK_ID), through the link between the fourth 1104 and fifth 1105 sets of arrays.

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The fourth set of arrays (1104, Fig. 5 and 6A) is also related to a sixth set of arrays (1106, Fig. 6B) representing information about filters that an operator can use to prohibit downloading one or several songs determined by special groups of tables. The song (or songs) is identified by a first group of specific tables identified by the identification number of the song(s) (FLT_CATALOGUE, fig. 5 and 6B), or by a second group of specific tables identified by the artist's identification number of the song(s) (FLT_ARTIST, fig. 5 and 6B), or a third group of specific tables identified by the identification number of the company that published the song(s) (FLT_LABEL, fig. 5 and 6B), or by a fourth group of specific tables identified by the identification number of the category (FLT_CATEGORY, fig. 6B) to which the song(s) belong. Each group of tables in a sixth set of arrays 1106 represents a given filter for a song, an artist, a disk publisher or a category. One of the (JUK_FILTER, fig. 5 and 6B) tables in the sixth set of arrays 1106 is also linked to the first set of arrays 1101 and comprises the description (JUK_DESC, fig. 6B) of the filter assigned to each jukebox by the filter identification number (JUF_ID) that is associated with the given jukebox identifier (JUK_ID) in each table (JUKEBOX, 1101). The first array 1101 also includes an argument corresponding to the filter number (JUF_ID). Thus, the filter on a given jukebox is defined by searching in the sixth set of arrays 1106 for the table(s) containing the (JUF_ID) for the filter. Similarly, an operator can assign the same filter number to one or several audiovisual information reproduction means (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

The first array (1101, fig. 5 and 6A) is also related to a seventh array (1107, fig. 6A) representing information about operators of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, Fig. 1). In particular, this information comprises an operator identifier (OPE_ID, fig. 6A) in the tables (OPERATOR, fig. 6A). Each table in the eighth set of arrays 1108 corresponds to a given operator. The relation between the first 1101 and the eighth 1108 sets of arrays is created using the operator's identifier and passes through the (JUKEBOX_LOCATION, fig. 6A) tables that contain the (OPE_ID, JUK_ID, fig. 6A) combination so that it is possible to work backwards to the device. Thus, in particular this relation is useful to determine the numbers of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) for which a specific operator is responsible for the management.

The first set of arrays (1101, fig. 6A) is also related to an eighth set of arrays (1108, fig. 6A and 6E) representing information about the log for an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). This information actually represents all events that take place on each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) and particularly, every time that a song is played, information is entered in the jukebox and each jukebox puts itself into relation with the server 10 at regular intervals in order to fill in a table in an eighth set of arrays (1108, PLAY_LOG, fig. 6A). Similarly, every time that an amount of money is inserted into the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), a new item of information is entered in the jukebox and all this information is received in another table (SYSTEM_LOG, fig. 6A) in the database 11 on the server 10 belonging to the eighth set of arrays. In particular, the information collected in these tables is used to calculate fees to be

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paid to the artist singing the songs, and also to find out exactly what songs were played during a day, a week or a given period, on a determined audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

- 5 For example, information about fee calculations is centralized in a ninth set of arrays 1109 related to the eighth set of arrays 1108.

The first set of arrays (1101, fig. 5 and 6A) is also related to a tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F) representing information about instructions that will be sent to at least one determined audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). At least one table (INSTRUCTION_DEF, fig. 6F) in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F) comprises a description of the instructions. Similarly, the relation between the first set of arrays 1101 and the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F) is made using the identification number of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Thus, all instructions intended for a determined audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) can be collected. For example, these instructions may be an update to at least one software (INS_SOFTWARE, fig. 6F) installed on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), downloading of new songs (INS_CATALOGUE, INS_ALBUM, fig. 6F) ordered by the operator of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), a modification of the operating parameters (INS_IBUTTON, fig. 6F) of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). This tenth set of arrays 1110 is systematically read by the server 10 when an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) sets up a communication with the server 10 in order to verify whether or not the instructions stored in the eleventh tables 1111 are to be used by the audiovisual information

reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) that has just set up a communication with the server 10.

With reference to figure 1 according to the invention again, the server also comprises an "Internet" site manager 12. The "Internet" site is used to build up a number of screens using information from the database so that an operator can use a computer 20, for example a personal PC computer equipped with a modem 21 and an "Internet" connection, to access functions available in these screens. In particular, the various screens can be used firstly to view information stored in the database 11 and related to the operation of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), and secondly to modify some settings of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), and thirdly to modify the list of songs on at least one audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n).

In order to do this, the "Internet" site manager 12 communicates with the database 11, using requests so that the information displayed on the screens corresponds to information in the database 11. Secondly, requests sent by the site manager 12 may be provided to modify information in the database 11. For example, the requests used will be in the SQL language.

The "Internet" site manager 12 operates as follows. The manager 12 communicates using the TCP/IP communication protocol specific to Internet, with the server of an Internet service provider 14, through communication means such as modems 121, 141 connected to the telephone network. The service provider's server 14 enables an operator to display screens built up by the site manager 12 on the monitor of his computer 20, by sending a request to the manager 12 through the service provider's server 14 which replies by sending the necessary messages to display the screen or the

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information requested by the operator. Therefore, requests for information from the operator are firstly transmitted to the service provider's server 14, and are then sent to the manager 12 of the host server site 10.

5 As soon as the operator accesses the "Internet" site through a request sent to the service provider's server 14, a first screen 200 shown in figure 2 is displayed on the operator's computer monitor 20. The display of this screen 200 is preceded by a query sent by the site
10 manager 12 to the database 11. This query includes a request for the identification numbers of all audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n) managed by the server 10. The database 11 processes this query by returning a list of all requested identification
15 numbers. This processing consists of searching for the identification numbers of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) for which the identifier of the owner operator or renter of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to
20 100.n) corresponds to the identifier of the operator who sent the request, by looking in the first set of arrays 1101. The manager 12 then builds up the first screen 200 by displaying the list obtained from the database 11 in a first window 201, that may for example be a popup window.
25 Similarly, a second window 203 may be used to display a welcome message and/or information about the operator such as his address and the total number of jukeboxes that he manages. Information about the display on the screen 200 is then sent to the service provider's server
30 14, and the service provider then transmits this information to the operator's computer 20. Transfers of data between the host server 10 and the access supplier's server 14, and between the access supplier's server 14 and the operator's computer 20, may for example make use
35 of modems 121, 141, 21, servers 10, 14 and the computer

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20. The information received by the computer 20 is then used to display the requested screen.

Subsequently, all selection or input operations made on screens and displayed on the monitor 20 of the operator's computer are translated into queries using the HTTP protocol through the TCP/IP network to the service provider's server 14, and then to the site manager 12. The manager 12 processes this query, possibly by sending one or several queries to the database 11, for example in the SQL language, to build up a screen representative of the reply to the received query. This screen is then sent back to the computer monitor 20 belonging to the operator through the telephone network 30 and the service provider's server 14 using the HTTP protocol.

The display of the first screen 200 may be preceded by the display of a screen shown in figure 2B to authenticate the operator and to limit operator access. This screen 410 comprises at least one input area 411 to 413 in which the operator can input a password 412 and/or a user name 411. This screen 410 also comprises a selection area 414 that triggers sending an identification query containing elements input by the operator to the site manager 12. The site manager 12 processes this request, firstly by verifying the authenticity of elements input by the operator by comparing input elements and memorized values. For example, this verification may be made by viewing a selection of information contained in the seventh array (1107, fig. 6A) about the operator, renter or owner of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Secondly, the site manager 12 sends a query to the database 11 containing the operator identification such that the database 11 only collects the number of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) managed by the identified operator.

The first screen 200 and all other screens displayed by the "Internet" site manager 12, include a toolbar 300, for example in the upper part. This toolbar 300 comprises a number of selection buttons 301 to 308 that, 15 when selected, trigger the display of a specific screen dedicated to carrying out the jukebox administration functions described above, or initiates validation of operations carried out on the current screen. Note that specific screens are displayed as a function of the jukebox(es) selected by the operator in the first window 20 209 in the first screen 200.

Thus, each selection button 301 to 308 in the toolbar 300 triggers a distinct query being sent to the site manager 12, then from the site manager 12 to the database 11. The query sent when the first selection button 301 is pressed is processed by the database 11 to collect settings for the selected audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) related to the selected jukebox installation. This information is then displayed in a third screen 400 shown in figure 2C. A first window 401 in this screen 400 comprises in particular the location of the jukebox, the name of the person responsible for the jukebox, and the type of music played on the jukebox. For example, the music type may be "rock", "country", "rhythm and blues", Latin music, "jazz", "alternative", or music related to seasonal

events (for example Christmas carols). A second window 402 in the third screen 400 can be used to correct or modify the location or the manager's name. Two selection fields 403, 404 are then used to validate 403 or cancel 5 404 the modifications made. Selecting the validation field 403 will make the site manager 12 send a query to the database 11. This query is a modification query intended to update the data in the database 11 as a function of the input made by the operator on the third 10 screen 400. When the database 12 receives this query, the database 11 also creates a file containing the updated information.

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Selecting a second button 302 in the toolbar 300 makes the site manager 12 display a series of screens 15 that the operator can use to choose at least one song that will be downloaded onto the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) of his choice. This series of screens comprises a fourth screen 500 shown in figure 2D, enabling the operator to define a 20 type of song. The song category is selected by selecting one or more areas (501.1 to 501.n) corresponding to the choice of the song type, for example using a pointer. The fourth screen may include several second fields (505.1 to 505.3) each defining the sort criterion for 25 songs corresponding to the chosen type. For example, songs can be sorted by author 505.1, by album 505.2 or by song name 505.3. Similarly, a third field 506 can be used to display only songs that have been recently added into the database and that also satisfy other selection 30 criteria. In another alternative, a fourth field 502 is used to choose, select or input one or several words that will be used to explore the songs database and to select songs in which the word(s) will be included, either in the title or in the name of the artist or in the title of 35 an album.

The fourth screen 500 also comprises a selection area 503 triggering validation, and a selection area 504 triggering cancellation of the choices made by the operator and triggers the site manager 12 sending a query to the database 11. This query is processed by the database 11 to collect the names of all songs available in the database corresponding to selection criteria previously defined by the operator. In particular, the available songs are determined by reading the tables in the fifth set of arrays (1105, fig. 5). The list of song names thus collected is transferred to the site manager 12 that generates the list of available songs in the database 11, in other words songs that could be downloaded later onto the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n) and satisfying the selection criterion chosen by the operator, into a popup window 507. For each song, the displayed data may for example be the song title, the artist's name, the title of the album from which the song was extracted, and/or a song identification number. For example, a song may be selected in the list in the first window by pointing at the required song name to highlight it, the choice of the highlighted song then being validated by pointing at a first selection area 508. Selection of this first selection area 508 triggers a procedure by the site manager 12 which, for example, displays a fifth screen 600 represented in figure 2E and displayed so that the choice of selected songs can be confirmed. This fifth screen 600 may comprise, for example, several fields (601.1 to 601.4) displaying the title 601.1 of the selected song, the title 601.2 of the album, the name 601.3 of the artist and the type 601.4 of music to which the song belongs. A first popup window 602 includes the list of jukeboxes belonging to the operator. This window 602 is used to choose the jukeboxes on which the song identified by the fields (601.1 to 604.4) will be

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downloaded. For example, one or more jukeboxes can be selected by pointing at the number of the jukebox(es) required by the operator in a first window 602. Selection of a first selection area 603 is a means of
5 validating the choice of jukeboxes, and a second selection area displays a fourth screen again so that a new song can be selected.

In another variant, the query sent to the database 11 when the operator's choice is validated is processed
10 by the database to collect the names of the songs most frequently played on the operator's other jukeboxes and/or on all jukeboxes managed by the server. Song names can also be selected respecting criteria chosen or selected by the operator.

15 After information in the database 11 representing the number of times each song has been played has been processed, a statistics program can be used to process audio or video film playing statistics and determine a classification, ignoring the type or category of
20 establishment, or considering the type or category of establishment so that an operator of a similar category of establishment can be offered a list defined as a function of the classification. Thus, an operator with an establishment belonging to a determined category of
25 establishments can request that the list of songs most frequently played on all jukeboxes installed in establishments in the same category be displayed on his terminal. As a non-restrictive example, the program performing this selection of songs is a product
30 recommendation tool marketed by the Net Perception company.

Selection of the first selection area 603 triggers validation of the purchase of the song displayed in fields (601.1 to 601.4) for all jukeboxes highlighted in
35 the first popup window 602 and makes the manager 12 send a request to the database 11. Processing of this query

causes creation of a file containing the audiovisual information necessary to reproduce the songs selected by the operator on the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) chosen by the same operator.

5 This file or the information contained in it, is memorized and will be downloaded on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by the update as soon as this device sets up a telephone communication with the host server (10,
10 fig. 1). Downloading this file or information on audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) causes the list of songs available on the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) to be updated, and also enables
15 reproduction of songs corresponding to the audiovisual information contained in the file, on these audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). For example, the information corresponding to this file is contained in one of the tables in the tenth
20 set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C) in the database 11. The next time that the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) sets up a communication with the server 11, the server verifies in the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C) to see if the
25 instructions are intended for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned. If so, the server 10 builds up a command file from the information contained in the corresponding table in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C) associated with the
30 jukebox, and the server 10 then downloads this file to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

In another variant embodiment of the invention, the songs ordered by the operator are not downloaded directly
35 to the audiovisual information reproduction system(s) chosen by the operator, but are stored on a recordable

optical medium such as a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM is then engraved with the audiovisual information corresponding to the songs chosen by the operator. The system according to the invention comprises a CD-ROM engraving system (not shown) for this purpose. Once the CD-ROM has been engraved, it is then sent, for example by mail, to the operator who can use it to update the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) that he manages. In order to limit the number of copies of the CD-ROM, the engraved information comprises the identification number of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) on which the copy is authorized. The CD-ROM cannot be used unless a CD-ROM player is installed on each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). During the operation to copy information contained on the CD-ROM, the operating system in the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) compares the identification numbers contained on the CD-ROM and the identification number of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). If any of these numbers corresponds, the copy is made. If not, the copy is refused and the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) may for example put itself out of service and setup communication with the server 10 to solve the problem. The choice between downloading songs or recording songs on a CD-ROM is made by selecting a fourth selection field (not shown) on the seventh screen or by displaying a special screen (not shown) after the operator has validated his choice of songs. This screen then comprises at least one selection area that can be used to choose between downloading or copying onto CD-ROM. In all cases, songs are compressed into the MPEG format and are encrypted and remain encrypted until they are

executed on an audiovisual information reproduction device.

Copying on a CD-ROM is particularly useful when the operator would like to purchase a large number of songs and he wants to copy these songs onto several audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). Downloading a large quantity of information can take a very long time and therefore be expensive in terms of telephone communications. Furthermore, when the communication takes a long time, there is an increased risk of an interruption and consequently all or part of the downloading will have to be restarted. This type of process can also be used for individuals acting as operators and ordering either by downloading or by an engraved CD-ROM, to obtain a selection of audiovisual tracks that remains encrypted depending on the identifier of the individual associated with the reproduction equipment and that can only be executed and decrypted when they are played on domestic devices like those described in the international patent application WO 96/12259 filed by the applicant and comprising decryption means using an identifier stored on the domestic device or in an associated device to decrypt the tracks.

The CD-ROM may be replaced by any portable magnetic or optical recording medium with an equivalent or greater capacity, for example such as a solid state electronic memory, for example a semi-conductor based.

Similarly, according to the process described above, the operator can create a hard disk in advance on which a list of required songs chosen by the operator is selected in advance, before a new jukebox is installed. When the jukebox is installed, the hard disk containing all chosen songs will be installed on the jukebox to form the mass memory means for the jukebox and the list of songs available on this jukebox.

Selection of the third button 303 in the toolbar 300 will cause a query to be sent towards the "Internet" site manager 12. The query is sent when the third selection button 303 is selected and is processed by the database 11 to collect the selected parameters for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerning information about the use of the jukebox chosen by the operator. This information is displayed in a series of fields (701.1 to 701.7) in the screen 700 shown in figure 2F. For example, a first field 701.1) indicates the date of the last call from the jukebox. A second field 701.2 indicates the execution status of the last call from the jukebox, in other words whether or not the call was successfully completed. A third field 701.3 indicates the operating state of the jukebox coin collector, if there is one. A fourth field 701.4 indicates the rejection rate of the coin collector. A fifth field 701.5 indicates the operating state of a jukebox bank note collector, if there is one. A sixth field 701.6 indicates the rejection rate of the bank note collector. A seventh field 701.7 indicates the date of the last maintenance or update operation of the jukebox.

A first popup window 702 on the sixth screen displays the list of songs to be downloaded on the jukebox. Selecting a first selection area 703 is a means of deleting one or several songs in the list and selected by the operator. A second popup window 704 on the sixth screen displays the list of songs that are to be deleted from the list of songs available on the jukebox. Selecting a second selection area 705 cancels the operation to delete one or several songs that the operator had previously selected. All information used to generate lists of songs displayed in the first and second popup windows 702, 704 in the sixth screen 700 is collected by the "Internet" site manager 12 in the database 11 on the server 10.

The "Internet" site manager 12 also displays information about usage statistics for an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). For example, this display is triggered by selecting a fourth button 304 on the toolbar 300. Selecting a fourth button 304 causes the site manager 12 to send a query to the database. This query interrogates the database 11 about information related to usage statistics. The database 11 processes this request by collecting information of the type corresponding to the selected area. The collected information is displayed in a seventh screen 800 shown in figure 2G comprising several fields (801.1 to 801.3) each corresponding to a type of information. As a non-restrictive example, a first field 801.1 could correspond to the date of the last time that the coin collector and/or note collector on the jukebox was initialized. A second field 801.2 shows the amount of money put into the jukebox since the last time it was initialized. A third field 801.3 shows the amount of money put into the jukebox during the current week. The list of the 100 most frequently played songs on the jukebox (for example) is displayed in a first popup window 802 in the seventh screen 800. The list of the 100 least frequently played songs on the jukebox (for example) is displayed in a second popup window 803. A first selection area 804 is used to validate deletion of songs previously selected in the second window 803. The operator can use a second area 805 to cancel the choices that he had made of songs to be deleted. Selecting the first area 104 triggers validation of all choices made by the operator to delete songs and causes the site manager 12 to send a request to the database 11. This is a modifications query intended to update the data in the base 11 as a function of choices made by the operator on the seventh screen 800. When the database 12 receives this query, the database 11 also creates a file

containing update information. This file or the information contained in this file is stored and will be downloaded onto the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by the update as soon as it sets up a telephone communication with the host server 10. Downloading this file or this information onto the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) will cause an update to the list of songs available on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned in accordance with the operator's choice. For example, the information corresponding to this file is contained in one of the tables in the fourth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C) in the database 11. The first time that the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig.1) concerned sets up a communication with the server 10, the server checks in the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1111, fig. 6C) to see if the instructions are intended for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned. If so, the server 10 builds up a command file using the information contained in the table in the corresponding tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C), then the server 10 downloads this file to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

The songs to be deleted are erased from the memory means in the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

The query sent when the fifth button 305 on the selection toolbar 300 is processed by the database 11 to collect the selected parameters from the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerning the amount of money to be paid by the user of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), so that he can select at least one song on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1

to 100.n, fig. 1). Similarly, volume adjustment parameters on the jukebox may also be collected. These parameters are then sent to the site manager 12 who then generates an eighth screen 900 shown in figure 2H, and containing a number of input areas (901, 902, 911I, 912I, 913, 914). A first series 901 of areas is used for the display of a price corresponding to the amount to be paid to select a given number of songs. This number is displayed in an area in a second series 902 of areas. The operator can modify each amount and each number of songs by pointing in the required input area. The eighth screen 900 also comprises third input areas (911.1 to 911.3) in which the operator can choose, select or enter sound volumes, and a fourth (912.1 to 912.3) input area in which the operator can control the jukebox bass and treble. A fifth area 913 is used to activate or deactivate a microphone that can be used with the jukebox and a sixth area 914 enables the operator to choose, select or enter the microphone sound volume. Finally, a seventh area 915 is used to activate or deactivate an auxiliary source and an eighth area 916 is used to select, choose or input the sound volume of this source.

The operator may, for example, validate all his inputs by selecting a first button 920, or he may cancel his inputs by selecting a second 921 button. Selecting the first cancellation button 920 cancels all choices, selections or inputs made by the operator who can then choose, select or input new parameters. Selecting the second validation button 921 makes the site manager 12 send a query to the database 11. This query requests modifications to update data in the base 11 as a function of input made by the operator on the eighth screen 900. When the database 12 receives this query, a file is also created in the database 11 containing update information. This file or the information contained in this file is stored and will be downloaded on the audiovisual

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information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by the update, as soon as the device sets up a telephone communication with the host server 10. Downloading this file or this information onto the
5 audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) will update the statuses of the particular functions of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned in accordance with the operator's choice. The information
10 corresponding to this file may, for example, be contained in one of the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F) in the database 11. The next time that the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned communicates with the server 10,
15 the server checks in the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1111, fig. 6F) to see if the instructions are intended for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned. If they are, the server 10 builds up a command file starting from
20 information contained in the corresponding table in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F), then the server downloads this file to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

In one variant embodiment, selecting a sixth button
25 306 in the toolbar 300 will display a ninth screen 1000 used to summarize all modifications that were made by the operator during the current connection. In order to do this, the ninth screen 1000 comprises a display window 1001, for example for each jukebox separately, displaying
30 all modifications made. Thus, the operator can ensure that the modifications are conform with his requirements. This screen 1000 comprises a first selection area 1002 used to cancel the modifications, and a second selection area 1003 used to validate the modifications. In this
35 variant embodiment, all queries sent to the "Internet" site manager 12 are sent during this final validation and

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not during selection of a particular area on each screen as described above.

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Selecting a seventh button 307 on the toolbar 30 causes the site manager 12 to send a query to the database 11. This is an interrogation query which is processed by the database 11 to collect information about activation and deactivation of particular functions of the selected audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). For example, this information is collected in at least one of the third arrays (1103, fig. 6B and 6C) in the database 11. Once this information has been collected, the database 11 replies to the query from the site manager 12 that then builds up a tenth screen 1010 represented in figure 2J and containing a number of input areas (1011.1 to 1011.5) used to control activating or deactivating a particular function in the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). A first function consists of deciding whether or not to authorize the use of a remote control to control operation of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). A second function consists of authorizing or not authorizing skipping over the song that is currently being played. A third function consists of authorizing or not authorizing successive repetition of the same song. A fourth function consists of authorizing or not authorizing the use of free credits on the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

The operator can modify the status of each function by modifying the display of input areas (1011.1 to 1011.5). The tenth screen 1010 also contains an area 1013 that cancels the modifications made and a selection area 1012 that validates the modifications made and will cause the site manager 12 to send a modification request to the database 11. When the database 12 receives this

request, the information about the status of particular functions of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) will be updated, and the database 11 will also create a file containing update information. This file and the information contained in it, are stored and will be downloaded to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by the update as soon as the audiovisual information reproduction device sets up a telephone communication with the host server 10. Downloading this file or information onto the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) causes the statuses of the particular functions of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) to be updated in accordance with the operator's choice. For example, the information corresponding to this file is contained in one of the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 5) in the database 11. The next time that the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) sets up a communication with the server 11, this server checks in the tables in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6F) to see if the instructions are intended for the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned. If so, the server 10 builds up a command file starting from information contained in a corresponding table in the tenth set of arrays (1110, fig. 6C), then the server 10 downloads this file to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned.

Selecting an eighth button 308 in the toolbar 300 makes the site manager 12 display an eleventh screen (not shown). This eleventh screen comprises a number of windows that the operator uses to define a basic configuration for all or some of the selected audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n). In particular, the various areas are used to define the type

of graphic interface that will be displayed on the audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), and operating parameters that will be installed by default on the selected audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), such as the times at which the modem in the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) will be available for making communications between the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) and the server 10. The eleventh screen also comprises a selection area that validates the information input on the eleventh screen and triggers the creation and then sending a request from the site manager 12 to the database 12. This request includes all information input by the operator on the eleventh screen. When the database 11 processes this request, an update file is created. This file or the information contained in it is memorized and will be downloaded on the audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by the update as soon as the audiovisual information reproduction system sets up a telecommunication with the host server 10. Similarly, this file or information will be downloaded onto a new audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) managed by the operator the first time that the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) gets into communication with the host server 10. Downloading this file or information onto an audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) will cause its configuration and operating parameters to be updated in accordance with the configuration defined by the operator on the eleventh screen. For example, the information corresponding to this file may be contained in one of the tenth arrays (1110, fig. 6F) in the database 11. The next time that

the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) gets into communication with the server 11, this server reads the tenth tables (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) to determine if the instructions are intended for the audiovisual information reproduction device (1110, fig. 5). If they are, the server 10 builds up a command file making use of the information contained in the corresponding tenth arrays (1110, fig. 6C), then the server 10 downloads this file to the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

When the operator selects several audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) when the first screen 200 is displayed, either the screens described above will be displayed for each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) in the selection, or the update operations will be used for all audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) in the selection. For example, the choice between one of these possibilities can be made by displaying additional screens (not shown) asking the operator to input the numbers of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) to which the updates that have just been validated should be applied.

In general, management operations for audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) or operations for displaying information about the use of audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) made through different screens displayed by the "Internet" site manager 12 correspond at least to management and display operations available on each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

It can easily be seen that the system according to the invention facilitates all management and configuration operations carried out by operators on

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audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1). The operator no longer needs to visit the site on which each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) is located.

- 5 Similarly, when an operator manages several audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) simultaneously, he can reconfigure all or some of his audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) in a single manipulation.

- 10 It is obvious that other changes that could be made by experts in the subject would lie within the framework of the invention.

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CLAIMS

1. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device comprising a host server (10) connected to telecommunication means of each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), the host server (10) comprising storage means (13) capable of storing a database (11) containing management information for each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), the set of available musical selections, the set of possible configurations for each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), characterized in that the host server (10) also comprises an "Internet" site manager (12) communicating with the database (11), the "Internet" site being accessible by an operator responsible for the management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1), and comprising a number of screens (200 to 1010), at least one first screen (200) comprising a popup menu displaying the list of audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n) installed locally for which usage information is available, the choice of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) being validated causing the display of a first series of screens (900, 1010) that the operator can use to modify the operating parameters of each selected audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) and/or a second series of screens (500 to 800) that the operator can use to order at least one song for downloading on the audiovisual information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) from a chosen list of devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) or to delete at least one song, and/or a third series of screens displaying information about the use of an

audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

2. System for remote management of at least one
5 audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 1, characterized in that the "Internet" site manager (12) collects information about the operation of each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) displayed on each screen, and the list
10 of available songs, in the database (11).

3. System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that modifications made by
15 the operator in the first and/or second series of screens are stored in a file and are translated into the language of the database (11) to update the data modified in these series of screens and update each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) concerned by
20 the modifications as soon as a communication is set up between the host server (10) and each audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1).

4. System for remote management of at least one
25 audiovisual information reproduction device according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the "Internet" site manager (12) comprises means (400) of authentication of the operator designed to limit the operator's access to the audiovisual information
30 reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) that he manages.

5. System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device according to
35 one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the screens in the first and second series of screens comprise a

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toolbar (300) with several selection buttons (301 to 308) that display either a screen in the first or second series of screens, or validate operations performed on the screen being displayed.

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6. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5, characterized in that a first selection button (301) in the toolbar (300) initiates the display of a
10 third screen (400) comprising a first window (401) displaying information about the location of the audiovisual information reproduction device chosen by the operator, and an input area (402) to update the information displayed in the first window (401), if
15 required.

7. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that a second selection
20 button (302) in the toolbar (300) triggers the display of a fourth screen (500) in the second series of screens comprising several input areas (505.i, 501.i, 502) that will be used to define selection criteria for selecting songs, the list of corresponding songs being initially
25 collected in the database (11) by the site manager (12) sending a request containing the criteria chosen by the operator in the input fields (505.i, 501.i, 502), and secondly displayed in a popup window (507) in the screen (500).

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8. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that validating the choice of a song selected in the popup window (507) in the
35 fourth screen (500) triggers the display of a fifth screen (600) comprising several areas (601.1 to 601.4)

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10. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5, characterized in that a fourth selection button (304) on the toolbar (300) triggers the display of a seventh screen (800) comprising several fields (801.1 to 801.3) containing information about statistics on the use

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13. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5, characterized in that a sixth selection button (306) in the toolbar (300) triggers the display of a ninth screen (1000) comprising a window (1001) displaying all modifications made by the operator at the time of his

connection to the Internet site managed by the site manager (12), a first selection area (1003) triggering validation of all operations displayed in the first window (1001), and a second selection area (1002) canceling all these modifications.

14. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 5, characterized in that a seventh selection button (307) triggers the display of a screen (1010) comprising at least one selection area (1010.1 to 1010.5) that can be used to activate or deactivate a particular function of the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, figure 1).

15. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that an eighth button (308) in the toolbar (300) triggers the display of a screen that will be used to define a default basic configuration of all or some of the audiovisual information reproduction devices (100.1 to 100.n) managed by the operator.

16. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the second series of screens (700, 800) includes a screen (700) containing a first menu (701) in which the song category required by the operator is selected, a second menu (701) in which the style of the song required by the operator is selected, and a selection area (703) in which the operator validates his choice to trigger the display of a second screen (800) comprising a first window (801) displaying the list of songs in the first category and style chosen by the operator, and a second window (802)

displaying the list of songs selected by the operator in the list in the first window and a selection area (805) in which the operator validates his choice.

5 17. System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device according to
claim 16, characterized in that the list of displayed
songs is collected in the database among the most
frequently played songs on all the operator's jukeboxes
10 or among the songs most frequently played on all
jukeboxes managed by the server (10) or among the songs
most frequently played on all jukeboxes installed in all
branches belonging to the same determined category.

15 18. System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device according to
claim 9, characterized in that the second window (802)
also comprises the list of songs already memorized on the
audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to
20 100.n, figure 1).

19. System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device according to
one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the third
25 series of screens comprises at least one screen
comprising a window displaying the list of songs played
by the audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1
to 100.n, figure 1), and the date on which each song was
played, and/or at least one screen comprising a window
30 indicating the date(s) on which the audiovisual
information reproduction device was switched off and/or
on, and a window indicating the date(s) on which a
communication between the audiovisual information
reproduction device and the host server was interrupted.

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20. System for remote management of at least one audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 9, characterized in that the system comprises a magnetic or optical recording system such that the songs
5 selected by the operator are recorded on a portable magnetic or optical medium, or a solid state electronic memory, preferably semi-conductor based.

21. System for remote management of at least one
10 audiovisual information reproduction device according to claim 12, characterized in that songs are encrypted and recorded on a portable magnetic or optical medium in a compressed format, the songs only being decompressed and decrypted when the song is played on an audiovisual
15 information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, figure 1).

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Applicant: TOUCHTUNES MUSIC CORPORATION

System for remote management of at least one
audiovisual information reproduction device comprising a
host server (10) connected to each audiovisual
information reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n), the
5 host server (10) comprising a database (11) containing
management information for each audiovisual information
reproduction device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1),
characterized in that the host server (10) also comprises
an "Internet" site manager (12) communicating with the
10 database (11), and comprising a number of screens (200 to
1010), at least one first screen (200) comprising a popup
menu displaying the list of audiovisual information
reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n), validating the
choice of each audiovisual information reproduction
15 device (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) causing the display of a
first series of screens (900, 1010) that the operator can
use to modify the operating parameters of at least one
selected audiovisual information reproduction device
(100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) and/or a second series of
20 screens (500 to 800) that the operator can use to order
at least one song for downloading onto the audiovisual
information reproduction systems (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1)
from a chosen list of devices (100.1 to 100.n, fig. 1) or
to delete at least one song, and/or a third series of
25 screens displaying information about the use of an
audiovisual information reproduction device (100.1 to
100.n, fig. 1).

Figure 1

FIG. 1

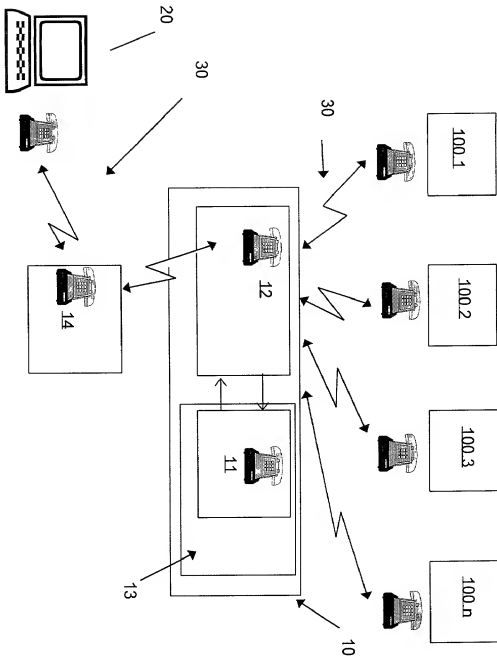


FIG. 2A

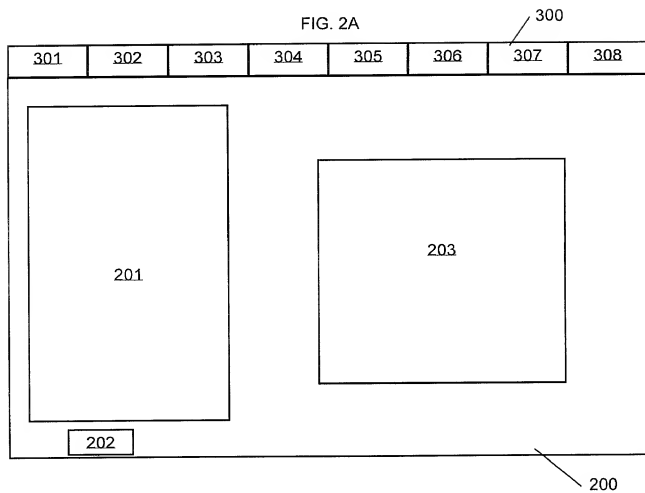
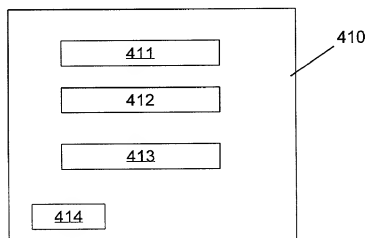


FIG. 2B



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FIG. 2C

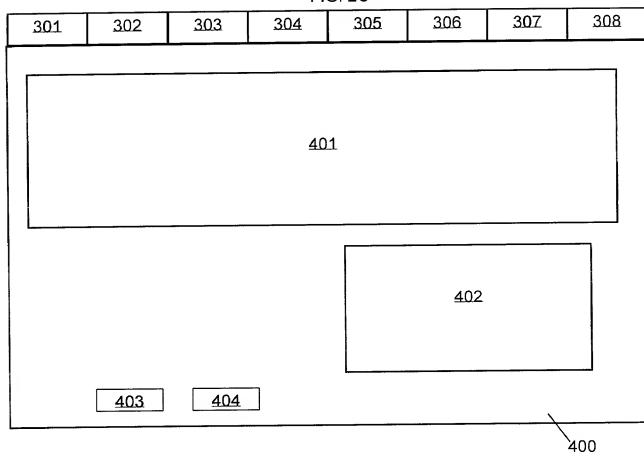
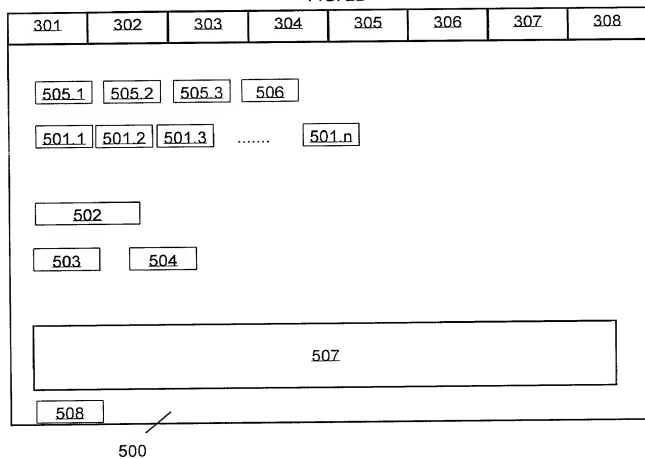


FIG. 2D



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FIG. 2E

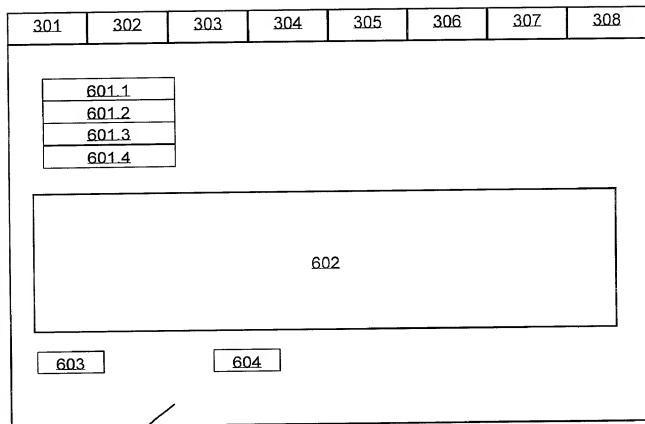
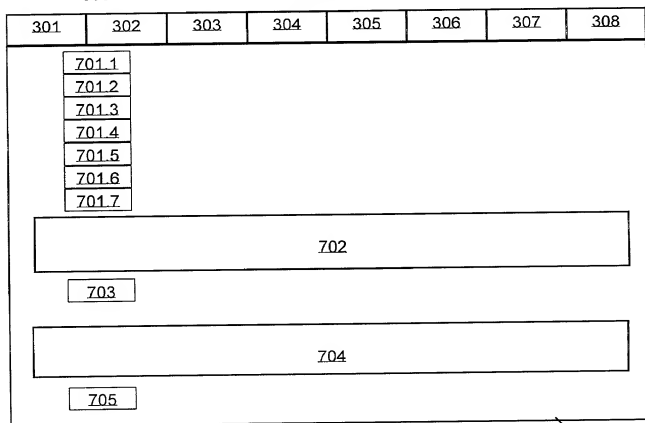


FIG. 2F



700

FIG. 2G

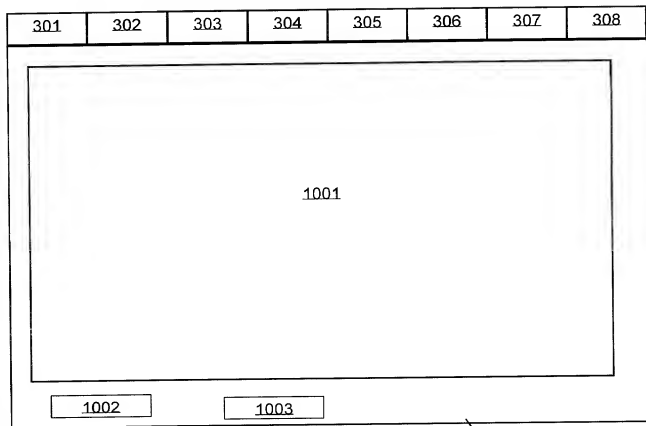


FIG. 2H



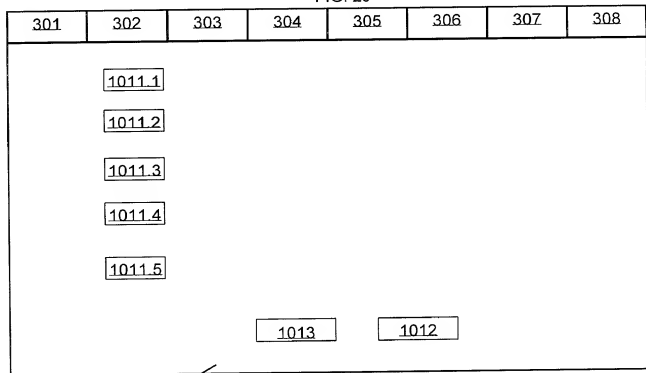
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FIG. 2I



1000

FIG. 2J



1010

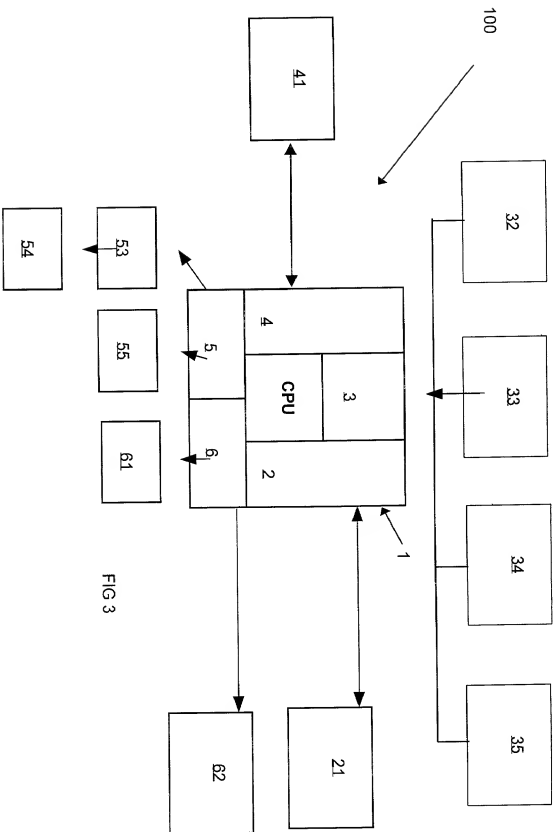


FIG 3



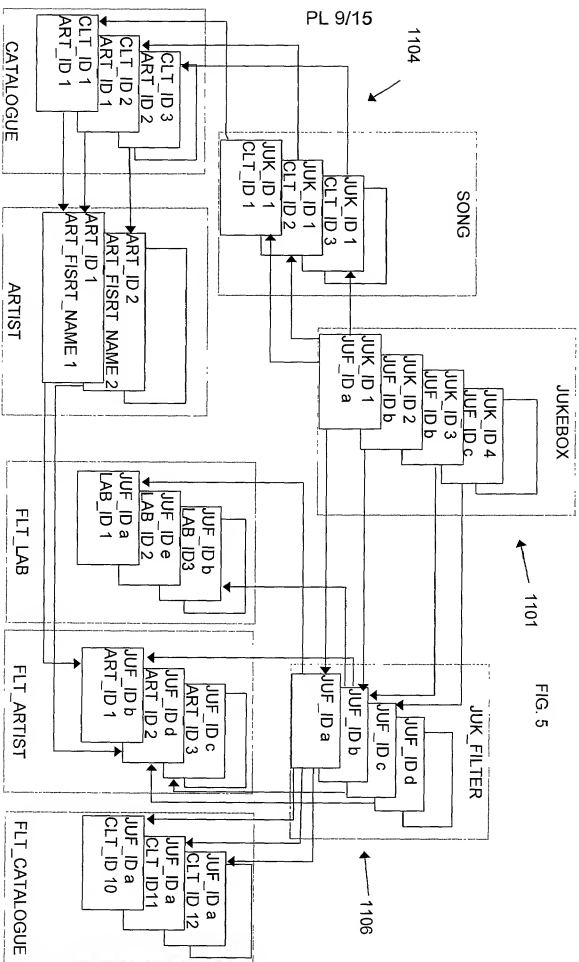


FIG. 5

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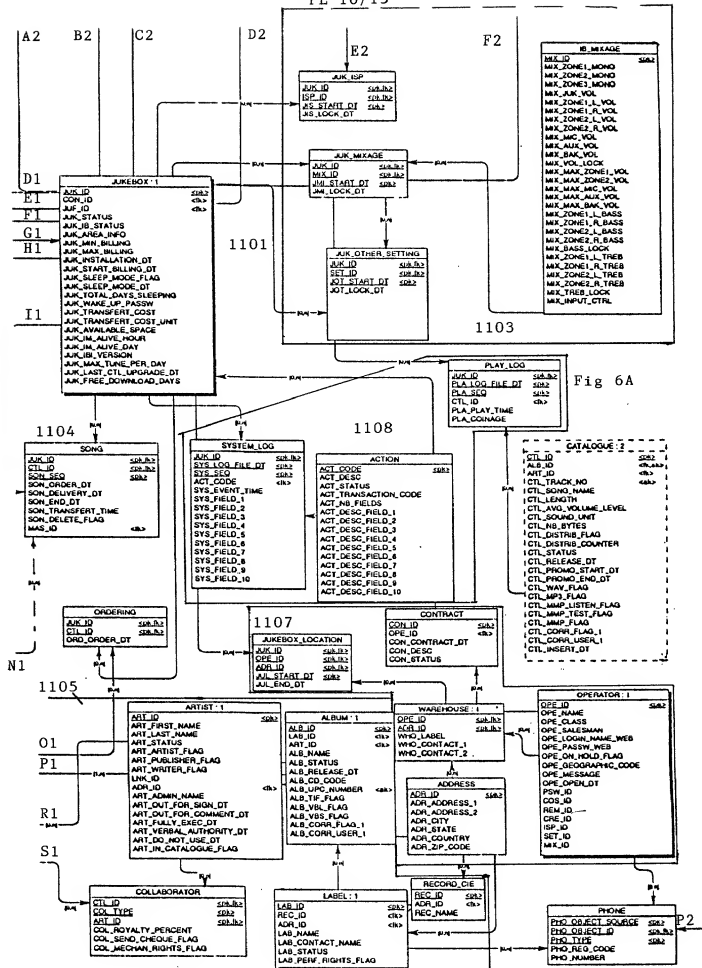


Fig 6A

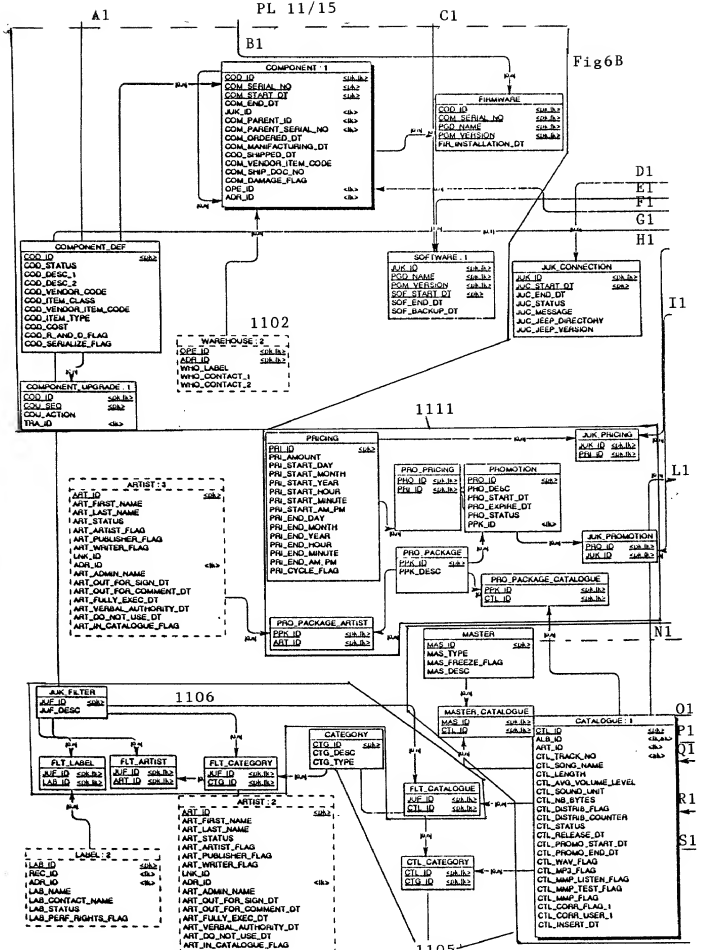


Fig 6C

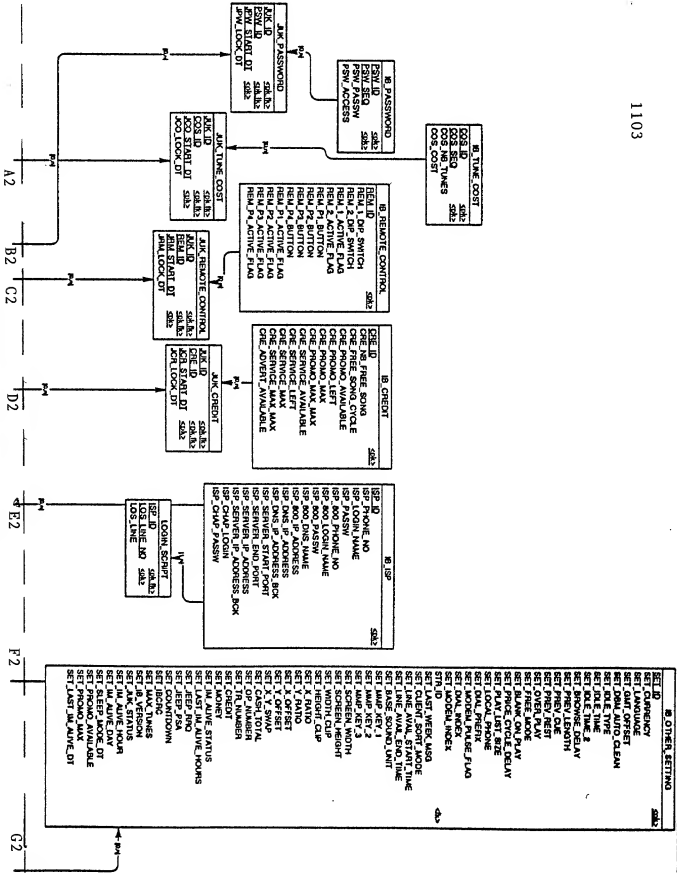
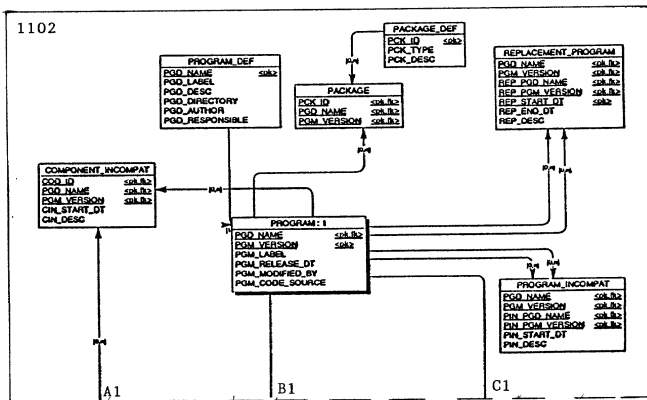


Fig 6D



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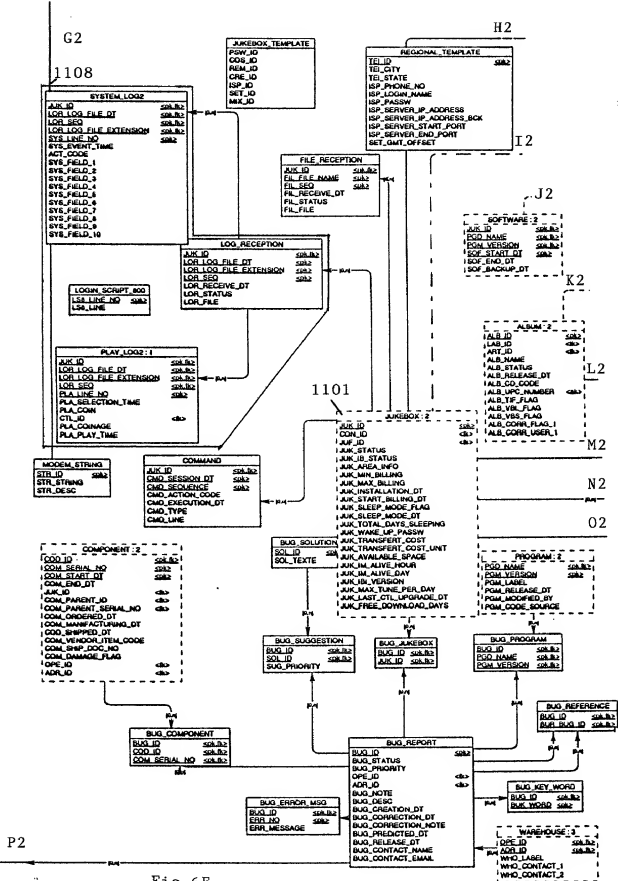


Fig 6E

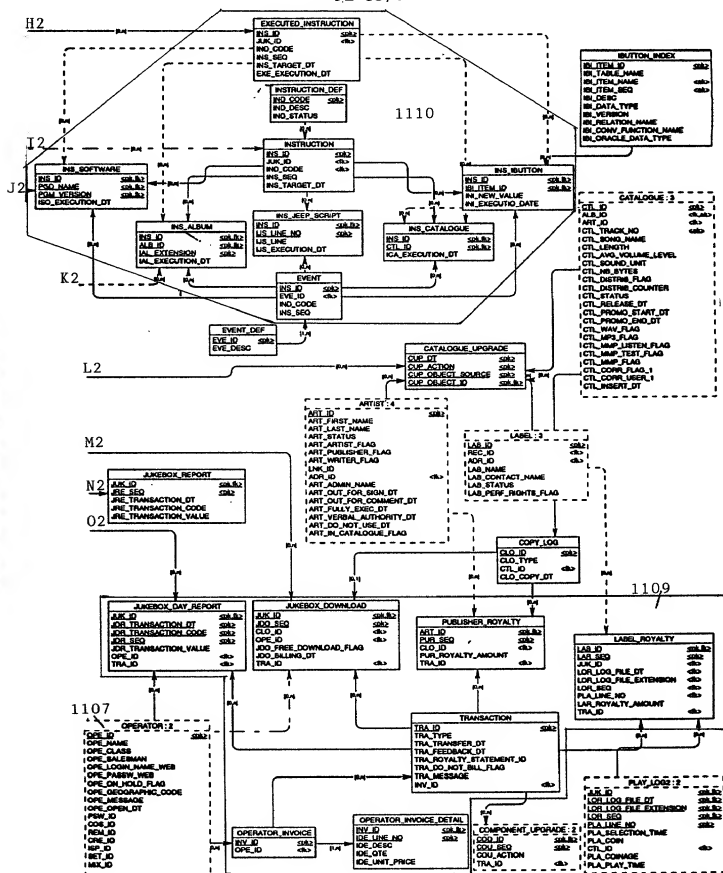


Fig 6F

FIGURE POUR L'ABREGE

